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For Immediate Release  
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**DRUG ORGANIZATION INDICTED BY FEDERAL GRAND JURY**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott, announced today that on March 26, 2003, a federal grand jury returned an 11-count indictment charging GIAP HUU LIEN, 32, of Tracy, HIEP HUU LIEN, 29, of Fremont, THOMAS VINH QUACH, 25, of Elk Grove, KAMALJIT SINGH KHERA, 33, of San Ramon, CHAU MINH DANG, 22, of San Jose, DUC KHIEM NGO, 32, of Lathrop, MIKE HUU NGUYEN, 30, of San Francisco, and KHOA DANG TRAN TO, 28, of San Jose, with Conspiracy to Distribute MDMA (also known as Ecstasy), Manufacture Marijuana, Distribute Crystal Methamphetamine ("ice"), Distribute Cocaine, Possess with Intent to Distribute Marijuana; and Possess with Intent to Distribute Crystal Methamphetamine.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Anne Pings, who is prosecuting the case, the conspiracy, which is alleged in the indictment to have begun in 1998 and continued until 2003, involved the transportation of marijuana from British Columbia ("BC Bud") and Ecstasy from Canada and Washington to California, and the reverse transportation of cocaine from California to points north. In addition, the organization is also alleged to have sold large quantities of crystal methamphetamine. The individual defendants are also each charged with specific drug transactions. If convicted, the penalty under federal law for the conspiracy is a mandatory term of imprisonment of 10 years, and a maximum term of imprisonment of life. These individuals have all been arrested and are pending further proceedings in United States District Court in Sacramento.

United States Attorney Scott also announced that the federal grand jury returned a related 7-count indictment charging TIN PHUNG NGUYEN, 23, of San Jose, JOHN GEORGE MASRI, 29, of Milpitas, JOSHUA PAUL LECHAK, 22, of Fairfield, LAUNTE DURAY BARNES, 25, of Sacramento, and AMY KIM HUYNH, 24, of Elk Grove, with conspiring with individuals named in the first indictment to distribute marijuana. If convicted, the maximum penalty under federal law is a term of imprisonment of 5 years. These individuals have all been arrested and are pending further proceedings in United States District Court in Sacramento.

The indictment also charges DENNIS LE HUYNH, 23, of Sunnyvale, with conspiring

with individuals named in the first indictment to distribute marijuana and crystal methamphetamine. The indictment also charges PETER QUOC HUYNH, 29, of San Francisco, with conspiring with individuals named in the first indictment to distribute MDMA, i.e., Ecstasy. If convicted, the maximum penalty under federal law for those offenses is 20 years. Both Dennis Le Huynh and Peter Quoc Huynh are fugitives.

A related 2-count indictment was also returned on March 26, 2003, charging PHUOC L. NGUYEN, 31, of Seattle, TREVOR HUTCHISON, 33, of Port Townsend, Washington, TROY DALE PLENDL, 42, of Mt. Vernon, Washington, and MICHAEL KIRK CAREY, 36, of Quincy, Washington, with Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute at Least 5 Kilograms of Cocaine. If convicted of this offense, the penalty under federal law is a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 10 years, and a maximum term of life. These individuals have been arrested and are pending further proceedings in United States District Court in Sacramento.

The charges are only allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case is the product of an extensive/joint investigation by the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force, the California Multi-Jurisdictional Methamphetamine Enforcement Team, the Drug Enforcement Administration (Sacramento and San Jose), the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division, the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

For further information, contact Patty Pontello of the U.S. Attorney's office at (916) 554-2706 or Sgt. Lou Fatur of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department at (916) 874-5021.

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